

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 25 were pending in the subject application, with claims 15-23 and 25 having been withdrawn by the Patent Office from consideration and claim 24 having been previously canceled. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended and claims 4, 15-23 and 25 have been canceled, to place the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 1-3 and 5-14 are now pending, with claims 1 and 6 being in independent form. Applicants maintain that no new matter and no new issues have been presented by this amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered and this application be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 4 of the February 13, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner stated that the prior art does not teach pulses in excess of 1 μ s or having intensities of 10 kw/cm².

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature formerly described in claim 4 (now canceled) which is believed to render amended claim 1 patentable over the cited art.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 6, and the claims depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over the cited art.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

On page 2 of the February 13, 2004 Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,468,356 to Crema et al.

The Examiner stated that Crema discloses a method for removing residues of molding material from metal parts of plastic packages of semiconductor devices. The Examiner also stated that the method includes using two laser pulses; the first pulse has a wavelength, which is absorbed by the thicker residues, and the second pulse has a wavelength for thinner or transparent residues. The Examiner further stated that the intensity and duration of the pulses removes the residues. The Examiner stated that a YAG laser is used with a wavelength of about 1064 nm (infra-red light). The Examiner also stated that pulse durations are between 6 and 8 ns. The Examiner further stated that the pulse repetition frequency is around 30 Hz and that other types of lasers may be used. The Examiner stated that it would be possible to other lasers with wavelengths in the ultraviolet range, that is, between 180 and 700 nm.

As pointed out above, this Amendment amends claim 1 to include the feature formerly described in claim 4 (now canceled) which is believed to render amended claim 1 patentable over the cited art.

Regarding claims 3 and 7-12, Applicants respectfully point out that claims 3 and 7-12 depend on and include all the limitations of claim 1. Thus, claims 3 and 7-12 are patentable at least for the reasons that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and

withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On page 3 of the February 13, 2004 Office Action, claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Crema.

The Examiner acknowledged that Crema does not disclose the use of a CO2 laser.

The Examiner alleged that it is well known in the art that lasers of different types have wide overlaps and hence different types of lasers may be considered functional equivalents. The Examiner further alleged that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a CO2 laser in place of a YAG, because other types of lasers may be used in the Crema cleaning method.

Applicants maintain Crema does not render obvious the invention claimed in claims 2 or 3.

As discussed above, the cited art does not disclose or suggest the invention described in amended claim 1 from which claims 2 and 3 depend. Since claims 2 and 3 include all of the features described in claim 1, the claimed invention described in claim 2 and 3 is patentable over the cited art for at least the very same reasons that claim 1 is thought to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

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On page 3 of the February 13, 2004 Office Action, claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Crema and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,803,021 to Werth et al..

The Examiner acknowledged that Crema does not disclose fluences of 1000 and 300 mJ/cm².

The Examiner stated that Werth teaches the use of an ultraviolet laser for the treatment of molded surfaces. The Examiner also stated that fluences used to remove mold residues range from 0.01 to about 1.0 J/cm² (10 to 1000 mJ/cm²).

The Examiner alleged that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have fluences, as taught by Werth in Crema system because these are standard ranges for ultraviolet and further they are both directed at removing mold residues.

As discussed above, the cited art does not disclose or suggest the invention described in amended claim 1 from which claims 13 and 14 depend. Since claims 13 and 14 include all of the features described in claim 1, the claimed invention described in claim 13 and 14 is patentable over the cited art for at least the very same reasons that claim 1 is thought to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicants maintain that claims 1-3 and 5-14 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants earnestly solicit the

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allowance of the application.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the telephone number provided below.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

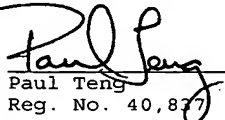
No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fee are required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Paul Teng
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April 19, 2004
Date